

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Applicants have attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated March 23, 2003 and believe the application is now in condition for allowance. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

The Examiner has objected to claim 4 for a grammatical inconsistency. Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error. The second occurrence of "is" has been deleted from the phrase "is data is" in line 3 of this claim. Applicants submit that this change puts this claim in condition for allowance if it depended from an allowable base claim.

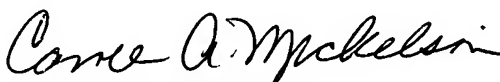
Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as not being enabling. The Examiner states that the phrase "without regard to time" is misdescriptive. Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have all been amended to recite that regeneration is initiated "without regard to time of day" as suggested by the Examiner. This feature is also imparted to claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 6-14 and 16-22, since dependent claims include all features of the independent claims from which they depend. Per the Examiner's suggestion, these claims should now be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly sought.

Appl. No. 10/044,609  
Amdt. dated April 14, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2004

Applicants submit that in view of the above-identified amendments and remarks, the claims in their present form are allowable and are patentably distinct over the art of record. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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